

used his seniority on the Senate Agriculture Committee to fight for the priorities of Louisiana farmers. He has worked to enhance navigation, flood control and hurricane protection in Louisiana, a State with many critical waterways. And he has fought to bring Federal dollars back to his home State, such as creating five national research centers at Louisiana universities and working to modernize Louisiana's military installations.

Today, Senator JOHNSTON is known nationally as a leader on energy issues. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator JOHNSTON has been one of the chief congressional architects in crafting national energy policy, including what is considered his crowning achievement, the National Energy Security Act, the most comprehensive energy bill ever to pass Congress.

I appreciate the assistance that Senator JOHNSTON has provided to the State of Illinois over the years. Illinois is home to two major Department of Energy laboratories, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory. Senator JOHNSTON's support has been critical to ensuring that Federal funding for these institutions, and the programs under their jurisdiction, is preserved as much as possible during these times of tight budgets. During the debate on the Integral Fast Reactor, a major Illinois research program on next-generation nuclear technology, it again was Senator JOHNSTON whose assistance and support were crucial to our victory. And it was his support that ensured that the jobs, research and hundreds of millions of dollars invested in IFR research were not wasted once the IFR program was eventually phased out.

There are other Illinois programs and priorities that would not have been possible without the assistance of Senator JOHNSTON, including preserving Federal funding for such critical Illinois projects as the reconstruction of the Chicago shoreline, the ongoing development the Deep Tunnel Flood Control System, and the Upper Mississippi River Feasibility Study.

I have always admired the distinguished Senator's skilled advocacy in defending his State's interests. During the Senate debate on ethanol, I found him a formidable opponent, as was demonstrated by the fact that it took a tie-breaking vote from the Vice President to reach a final decision on that issue. That tight margin exemplifies the kind of excellence and thoroughness Senator JOHNSTON brings to his legislative efforts.

This institution will lose a great asset with the retirement of the distinguished Senator from Louisiana. I wish him, and his family, the very best in their future endeavors.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR SAM NUNN

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, the news today is filled with the sad stories of foreign lands—war in Bosnia, tyranny in Iraq, terrorism in the Middle East. Here, in 1996, on the edge of the 21st century, we live in a world still plagued with fear and war.

These are not, however, the stories of America. America instead is the place where foreign lands turn for hope. When war-torn nations plead for assistance, America answers. When war-like nations terrorize, America responds. And when war-weary nations seek peace, America mediates.

In its 220th year, America stands strong in national security, military might, and world leadership. This is in large part due to one of the chief architects of American strength, Senator SAM NUNN of Georgia.

As a longtime member and former Chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee, SAM NUNN is internationally recognized as the preeminent American legislator in all aspects of defense policy. His expertise is expansive, from major weapons programs, to manpower, and from defense research, to military benefits. He has faced national crises such as United States citizens held as hostages in Iran, humanitarian relief in Somalia, and war in Kuwait. From disarmament talks, to the demise of the communist eastern bloc, and to the reduced threat of nuclear war, SAM NUNN has helped craft the defense policies that kept America secure during the Soviet years, and left America the sole superpower in the post-cold war era.

In these times of tight budgets, Senator NUNN has also kept a watchful eye on the Pentagon, working to strike the right balance between defense spending and maintaining defense readiness. He has worked to increase fiscal responsibility in defense programs, streamline bureaucracy, and stop wasteful and excessive spending—putting an end to such controversies as the infamous hundred-dollar hammers.

Defense issues are not simple issues; they are divisive, and often, heated. Some decisions are not popular. I have always respected Senator NUNN for making these tough choices. SAM NUNN today is considered a model of American statesmanship and leadership. And that is because his record demonstrates the kind of excellence and thoroughness he brings to his legislative efforts.

After announcing his retirement, one Georgia public official described Senator NUNN's career as "a career that has a beginning and an end, no compromises, no ethical lapses. . . a monument to public service to young people for generations to come." I agree. His departure from the United States Senate leaves a great void of expertise—but in its place, leaves security for our citizens, and leadership for the world. As the longtime watch of Senator NUNN draws to a close, America remains strong.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR BILL COHEN

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today to say farewell to a colleague who is retiring from the Senate at the end of this Congress—Senator BILL COHEN of Maine. Senator COHEN's decision to retire will be a loss to Maine, a loss to this body, and a loss to the United States.

BILL COHEN began his career in public service over a quarter of a century ago, when he served a term on the Bangor City Council, and later as the Mayor of Bangor. In 1972 he was elected to the House of Representatives where he represented Maine for three terms. He was first elected to the United States Senate in 1978, and easily won two subsequent elections to that office.

Known for his independence and integrity, he first gained national prominence during his tenure on the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate investigation. He was the first Republican to oppose President Nixon's attempt to provide edited rather than full transcripts of White House conversations to the committee. He later played an instrumental role in the Iran-Contra hearings.

In 1975 BILL COHEN began serving on the House Aging Committee, and later served as the Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, where I have had the pleasure of working with him. During his tenure on both the House and Senate committees he has tirelessly fought for issues affecting the elderly. During his tenure in the House he was the author of the Nursing Home Patients Bill of Rights. In 1995 he led the fight in the Senate for more stringent health and safety standards in nursing homes. And he also led a Senate investigation into questionable practices in the hearing aid industry. Due to these efforts, advocates of issues affecting the elderly have dubbed Senator COHEN "one of the most valuable and able and dedicated members" working on seniors issues.

BILL COHEN has also dedicated himself to making government work better. He wrote the Competition in Contracting Act which has saved the government billions of dollars through the use of competitive bidding for the vast majority of goods and services. He drafted comprehensive health care fraud reform legislation which passed the Senate in 1995 and which the Congressional Budget Office estimated would save billions of dollars. And he sponsored the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, which provided greater protection for Federal workers who "blow the whistle" on fraud or mismanagement that they witness in their agencies. Mr. President, these are only a few of Senator COHEN's accomplishments during his tenure in Congress, but they demonstrate his commitment to serving the people of Maine and the citizens of our country.

He has provided invaluable leadership in the area of race relations, and demonstrates daily his commitment to